CONTENTS

The Disks of Spiral Galaxies 1

D. J. ADAMS, *Department of Astronomy, University of Leicester, U.K.*

RR Lyrae Stars as Distance Indicators 17

R. F. JAMESON, *Department of Astronomy, University of Leicester, U.K.*

Statistical Methods of Stellar Polarimetry 27

D. CLARKE* and B. G. STEWART**, **University Observatory, Glasgow, U.K.; ***School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, Aberdeen, U.K.*

The Origin of Comets 53

M. E. BAILEY,* S. V. M. CLUBE** and W. M. NAPIER,*** **Department of Astronomy, The University, Manchester, U.K.; ***Department of Astrophysics, Oxford, U.K.; ****Royal Observatory, Blackford Hill, Edinburgh, U.K.*

Henry Rowland and Astronomical Spectroscopy: Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Henry Rowland's Introduction of the Concave Diffraction Grating 115

Star Names — Origins and Misconceptions 237

G. HEUTER, *1 East View, Rogers Lane, Gwersyllt, Clwyd, U.K.*

Polarimetry of Cool Giants and Supergiants 253

H. E. SCHWARZ, *Mullard Space Science Laboratory, Surrey, U.K.*

New Ideas in Cosmology and New Solutions in General Relativity 281

P. S. WESSON, *Department of Physics, University of Waterloo, Canada*

A Large-Scale Atlas of the Milky Way Dark Clouds 291

J. V. FEITZINGER and J. A. STÜWE, *Astronomical Institute, Ruhr-University Bochum, F.R.G.*

An Analysis of the Light Changes of Eclipsing Variables in the Frequency-Domain: Practical Aspects 295

Z. KOPAL, *Department of Astronomy, University of Manchester, U.K.*